

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)		
)		
J. Donald HILL <u>et al.</u>)	Examiner:	Thomas C. BARRETT
)		
Application No.: 09/987,976)	Group Art Unit:	3738
)		
Filed: November 16, 2001)	Confirmation No.	7910
)		
For: AUTOMATIC SUTURE FIXATION)		
APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR)		
MINIMALLY INVASIVE CARDIAC)		
SURGERY)		

REQUEST FOR SECOND AND THIRD MONTH EXTENSIONS OF TIME TO RESPOND
ACCOMPANYING REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

MAIL STOP RCE

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Office Action, mailed August 23, 2005, please consider the accompanying Request for Continued Examination in view of the following:

Request for Second and Third Month Extensions of Time to Respond begins on page 2 of this paper.

Conclusion begins on page 3 of this paper.

Request for Second and Third Month Extensions of Time to Respond:

On December 22, 2005, Applicants filed a Responsive Amendment accompanied by a Request for One-Month Extension of Time to Respond and the required fee of \$60.00 (Fee Code 2251). Applicants respectfully request a second and a third month extensions of time for filing a response to the Office Action, mailed August 23, 2005, in the above-captioned patent application. As a result of this request, the deadline to respond is extended up to and including **February 23, 2006**. Applicants respectfully request that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) charge the amount of \$450 (\$510-\$60) covering the requisite, small entity fee (Fee Code 2253) for a three-month extension of time to respond, less the previously paid small entity fee (Fee Code 2251) for a one-month extension of time to respond, to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the PTO, please charge or credit any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375.

Conclusion:

Applicants respectfully submit that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a further interview with Applicants' representatives, either in person or by telephone, would expedite prosecution of this application, we would welcome such an opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

By: 

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